

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend pages 4-5, paragraphs [0017] – [0018], as follows:

[0017] Referring firstly to Fig. 1, Fig. 1 shows a fluidised bed reactor having a pressure-resistant casing 1, a fluidised bed 4 and, located therein, a device for introducing gas into the reactor. The gas introduction device comprises a plurality of gas inlet pipes 3, which are arranged above the fluidised bed 4, for introducing gas currents into the fluidised bed 4 from above and a plurality of gas inlet pipes 2, which are arranged underneath the fluidised bed 4, for introducing gas currents into the fluidised bed 4 from below. As shown in diagrammatic form in the two enlarged views of the gas inlet pipes arranged above and underneath the fluidised bed 4, in the case of the gas inlet pipes customary in the prior art a substantially parabolic velocity profile (5, Wm) of the gas current becomes established over the cross-sectional area of the pipe. The reactor shown in FIG. 1 has a diameter of 28 cm and a height of 2.3 m.

[0018] Referring now to Fig. 2, Fig. 2 shows a fluidised bed reactor having gas inlet pipes for introducing gas currents in accordance with the present invention, which differs from the reactor shown in Fig. 1 in that the gas inlet pipes of the device for introducing gas currents of Fig. 2 are provided, in accordance with the invention, with a narrowing of the pipe lumen for swirling the gas current. The gas inlet pipes 2, 3 have for that purpose an annular bead 6 which is arranged around the internal circumference at their outlet-side end. As shown in diagrammatic form in the two enlarged views of the gas inlet pipes arranged above and underneath the fluidised bed 4, as a result of the annular bead 6 the parabolic velocity profile known for the pipes in the prior art is flattened off in favour of an increase in the gas current velocity in the vicinity of the margin of the pipe. In particular, the velocity profile (5, Wm) of the gas current emerging from a gas inlet pipe is substantially constant over the cross-section of the gas inlet pipe.